

said sub lens group drive device moves said movable sub lens group to one of said movement extremity on the object side and said movement extremity on the image side in accordance with said corresponding zooming zone after one of photometering and distance measurement is performed.

5. (Amended - clean text) The lens drive control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said camera further comprises a photometering device, a distance measurement device, a shutter device, a photometering/distance measuring switch for actuating said photometering device and said distance measurement device, and a release switch for actuating said shutter device; and wherein

said sub lens group drive device moves said movable sub lens group to one of said movement extremity on the object side and said movement extremity on the image side in accordance with said corresponding zooming zone after one of photometering and said distance measurement is performed upon operation of said photometering/distance measuring switch regardless of whether said release switch has been operated.

6. (Amended - clean text) The lens drive control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said camera further comprises a photometering device, a distance measurement device, a shutter device, a photometering/distance measuring switch for actuating said photometering device and said distance measurement device, and a release switch for actuating said shutter device; and wherein

said sub lens group drive device moves said movable sub lens group to one of said movement extremity on the object side and said movement extremity on the image side in accordance with said corresponding zooming zone after one of photometering and distance measurement is performed upon operation of said photometering/distance measuring switch, and before said shutter device is actuated upon operation of said release switch.

9. (Amended - clean text) The lens drive control apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said camera further comprises a photometering/distance measuring switch for actuating said photometering device and said distance measurement device, and said sub lens group drive device moves said movable sub lens group back to said one of said movement extremity on the object side and said movement extremity on the image side, upon an operation of said photometering/distance measuring switch being released.

11. (Amended - clean text) The lens drive control apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

said sub lens group drive device moves said movable sub lens group back to said one of said movement extremity on the object side and said movement extremity on the image side, after said shutter device is actuated.

Please enter the following new claims for consideration by the Examiner:

---12. The lens drive control apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said sub lens group drive device comprises:

two sub lens barrels which support two sub lens groups of said switching lens group, and which guide said two sub lens groups so as to be relatively rotatable and to be movable between a mutually close position and a mutually distant position, with respect to the optical axis;

an actuator ring, which is engageable with one of said two sub lens barrels, including two engagement portions and cam surfaces formed between said two engagement portions, wherein said actuator ring rotates said one sub lens barrel of said two sub lens barrels between two rotational extremities thereof, and moves said one sub lens barrel in the optical axis direction;

a retaining ring including a guide portion which only allows linear movement in the optical axis direction of said one sub lens barrel at each said two rotational extremities, wherein the rotational movement range of said one sub lens barrel is restricted by said two rotational movement extremities; and

a motor for rotating said actuator ring forwardly and reversely; wherein

after said actuator ring is rotationally driven in a first direction by said motor so that a switching operation of said one sub lens barrel from one to the other of said two rotational movement extremities is performed, said motor is driven in a second direction so that said one sub lens barrel moves in the optical axis direction via said guide portion and said cam surfaces while rotating from said other of said two rotational movement extremities toward said one of said two rotational movement extremities to perform a focusing operation.

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13. A lens drive control apparatus for a camera having a zoom lens provided with a plurality of movable variable lens groups for changing a focal length thereof, said lens drive control apparatus comprising:

a main drive device for moving said plurality of variable lens groups along an optical axis thereof in accordance with a predetermined movement path between a short focal length extremity and a long focal length extremity; and

a sub lens group drive device for selectively moving a movable sub lens group, said movable sub lens group being one of two sub lens groups of a switching lens group of said variable lens groups, and being selectively movable in the optical axis direction with respect to the remaining sub lens group of the switching lens group, said sub lens group drive device moving said movable sub lens group within a range allowed within said switching lens group so as to be positioned at one or another of two movement extremities of said range,

wherein, in a first zooming zone of said plurality of variable lens groups extending from the short focal length extremity to an intermediate focal length position, said sub lens group